

# Bridgeport Evening Farmer

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## GERMANY REGRETS SUBMARINE ATTACK NEBRASKA; READY TO PAY DAMAGES

### MANUFACTURERS DAY GRANT 8 HOUR DAY TO MACHINISTS

Strike Vote of Machinists At Ammunition Factories Will Be Polled At Union Headquarters Tomorrow Night—Plans of Local Are to Get Eight Hour Day For All Toolmakers and Machinists of City.

Announcement last night of the institution of an 8 hour day on Aug. 1 throughout its massive plants in this city and in Ilion, N. Y., by the Remington Arms & Ammunition Co., and the Union Metallic Cartridge Co., was followed to-day by a hurried conference of the owners of machine shops in this city, at the office of the Manufacturers' association this afternoon.

This was to discuss the effect of the U. M. C. 8 hour day upon the machinists in other plants in Bridgeport where work is being done for the great arms manufacturers.

The meeting of the manufacturers was in progress this afternoon when J. J. Bowen, business agent of the Bridgeport local, No. 30, I. A. M., clearly outlined to the Farmer the plans of the local. It is its aim, now, to get for all the machinists of Bridgeport an eight hour day. Manufacturers discussed the problem with much earnestness this afternoon. Several were favorably disposed towards the eight hour day.

Tomorrow night, there will be a strike vote polled at Machinists' headquarters, on the question of whether the union machinists in the Remington plants shall join the striking millwrights. Wages and working hours do not enter this question.

Whether millwrights should be classed as carpenters or machinists.

Machinists union members, including prominent officers, were agreed that the vote tomorrow night should be in favor of a strike of machinists at the arms factories. Following this there will be agitation towards a general strike of machinists in other factories throughout the city, to get the eight hour day.

The announcement of the Remington-U. M. C. company that it would on August 1st grant the eight hour day in all departments is said to have been occasioned by advance knowledge of what was coming, but owing to the fact that the millwrights will technically stand out until the jurisdictional fight between the carpenters and allied metal trades is settled in Washington the posted announcement of the company will have little avail.

It is predicted in labor circles to-day that the machinists will be called out to-morrow night as a result of the vote to be taken then. The next action of the organizers here will be to call out the machinists working in the 20 factories throughout Bridgeport doing U. M. C. sub-contract work.

These will be called out on a sympathetic strike, it was stated, but before any of the striking bodies that may labor here will be called out, the labor troubles return to work they will have to be assured full union pay, shorter hours, and full reinstatement of all men who may enlist in the general cause.

J. J. Bowen, business agent of the local machinists when seen to-day by a Farmer reporter said: "There is not a trade on the Remington-Arms work that is favorable to the carpenters. If the carpenter goes on strike he can only pull out the carpenter but all other trades favor the machinists and the structural iron workers."

"The real situation in relation to the strike at the arms factory is this: There is only one factory in Bridgeport granting the eight-hour day. This is the Lake Torpedo Boat Company. This is a result of our fight to secure national recognition of the union. I should qualify this statement by saying that there is a part of the American & British company, manufacturing government supplies where the eight-hour day law is in force, and the American Graphophone Company stands ready at any time to grant the eight-hour day."

"There are twenty factories here working on this kind of work (sub-contracts for the U. M. C.). WE ARE GOING TO CLEAN UP ALL THESE SHOPS UNTIL WE SECURE EIGHT HOUR FACTORIES and then it will be easy enough to line up the rest of the factories in Bridgeport."

"The probabilities are that a strike of the machinists will take place in the Remington U. M. C. plant and their machine departments cleaned out within less than a week. Then we will go after the others."

"The object of this strike will include all of the anti-union demands and that all men on strike be reinstated under better conditions. The strike will not be settled until all trades involved in the general strike are satisfied. The strike will include the millwrights, structural ironworkers, machinists, holding engineers, the hod carriers if they see fit to strike and any other body that may join."

It is estimated today by labor leaders that as high as 20,000 artisans could be involved in such a general strike, but about 1,000 of which would be union machinists. While there are about 8,000 machinists in Bridgeport but a third have been organized.

With all the international heads in

### HIGH SCHOOL JOB WORK ENDS WHEN TRADESMEN QUIT

Plumbers, Wire Lathers, Electrical Workers And Steam Fitters Balk.

UNABLE TO PROCEED FURTHER, THEY SAY

Richard Murphy Has Laas on Gridiron For Lack of Progress At Site.

All chance of completing any part of the new Bridgeport High school building in time for occupancy when school opens in the autumn, flattered away last night when the plumbers and wire lathers laid down their tools in disgust.

Tomorrow or Saturday the electric workers and the steam fitters will quit. None of the tradesmen can go on with their work because the contractors haven't built enough of the interior of the building to allow further progress.

Mr. Laas, of Durkin & Laas, was hauled over the coals this morning in a fiery session at the scene of lack of progress.

"All right. I've got you on record now. You'll do no more work on this building," flattered through the cracks in the shanty as Richard Murphy, general boss of the situation, verbally assailed the Durkin & Laas Co. in vociferous tones.

In the meantime, the neighborhood of the High school is attracting many in search of peace and quiet. The scene that the average citizen imagines must be one of tremendous effort to rush one wing of the building so his and other Bridgeporters' children

may be crowded out of a school course, is an ideal summer one. All is serene. Never a blow of workmen's hammer disturbs the air and the picture is marred only by the idly swinging guy ropes where a rotten derrick crashed to the ground last night.

In an immense building, stretching for a whole block, 12 plasterers, enough for a cottage or two, are pottering half-heartedly. A plumber's helper wanders around on the sidewalk, dressed in his street clothes, gazing on the picture that is keeping him out of work. The steam fitter announces that he'll quit before the end of the week and the electrical fitters are stalled.

A great empty building will be like that for eight weeks, possibly three months, it is estimated. When the children will be admitted is a mystery.

No stone work, marble work or flooring has been done in the last few weeks and the plumbing, electrical and wire lath work must wait until it is done. Until then they will be idle. It is rumored the board of education forgot to let the contract for the stone and marble jobs.

No floors are being laid. This work is also at a standstill. The south wing, which it was hoped would be completed, is in a general state of chaos.

The quitting of the workmen last night caused a visit to the scene by Mr. Murphy. He had heated words with one of the contractors. He said: "You'll do no more work on this building." It has been suggested that the word "more" is superfluous.

A marble column, imported at great expense, was smashed on one end last night when a derrick fell. It took several weeks for the column to get here from Indiana, where it was ordered to replace one that it was feared would hold up work on the building because it was not perfect. The new column will contribute its mite to the general carnival of delaying the high school job.

EASTON MAN CUTS OFF TWO CHILDREN FROM \$5,000 ESTATE

Neither his son, John Foster, nor his daughter, Mary E. Bedell, both of New York city are mentioned in the will of John J. Foster of Easton which was offered for probate to-day. The estate is estimated to be \$5,000 or more. Mr. Foster who was a widely known resident of Easton died on June 22. His will was drawn on May 24, 1915. A hearing on the application of admission of the will has been set for July 20, at 11 A. M.

Mr. Foster bequeathed the life use of one half of both his real and personal estate to his widow, Mary E. Foster. At her death this part of the estate is to be divided equally between Celestia E. Megill, his daughter, of Red Bank, N. J., and Alice A. Banks, another daughter who lives at Weston, Conn. These daughters also under the will each receive one-third outright of all the estate of the deceased.

CAPTAIN J. H. REDGATE HONORED BY POLICE

Danbury, July 15.—The 13th annual convention of the Connecticut State Policemen's association was held here today, with delegates representing 32 cities and towns.

Chief William H. Brennan of Stamford, was elected president and Captain J. H. Redgate, Bridgeport, was named to the executive committee.

### ADVANCE ON WARSAW IS UNDER WAY

Teutonic Allies Capture Towns Near Polish Capital—Storm Heights in Severe Battle As Renewed Offensive Is Begun.

One Killed As Norwegian Merchantman Is Sunk By Blockader—French and German Armies Claim Successes in the Argonne.

Berlin, July 15.—Przemyśl, a town of Russian Poland, 50 miles north of Warsaw, has been captured by the German forces, according to the official statement given out to-day by the German army headquarters staff. The Germans also announced that they have captured the village of Konyas, to the south of Kolno, and have stormed the heights of Olszanka, to the northeast of Suwalki.

FRENCH ALSO CLAIMING SUCCESSES IN ARGONNE

London, July 15.—From Athens comes a report of a substantial advance made by the Anglo-French forces against the Krithia-Achi Baba line, but since so many wild rumors have originated in the Grecian capital this is received with reserve until officially confirmed.

The latest Paris communication counters the claims of German successes in the Argonne region with the report that the French have set foot at several points in the German trenches on the road to Marie Thore and are making progress in their attacks beyond the Servon road, west of the forest of Argonne.

On the eastern front nothing approaching a decisive action has been reported in a fortnight. The Germans, however, again are showing activity in the region between the Niemen and Vistula rivers where they have attacked in force, expelling the Russians along one section from which the Russians retired to their second trenches.

All these signs point to a new German drive toward Warsaw from the east Prussian frontier but it is believed by military observers here that the Russians have sufficient forces in this direction to oppose formidable resistance.

It is expected that the period of quiescence in Southern Poland will be ended by an attack of the Austro-Germans toward the river Bug.

Great Britain again is expending domestic troubles, with 150,000 coal miners actually on strike.

ENGINEER KILLED AS NEUTRAL SHIP IS HIT

London, July 15.—The Norwegian steamer *Nebraska*, bound for New York, was sunk by a German submarine. The second engineer was killed and the rest of the crew was landed at Great Yarmouth.

The *Rym* was a vessel of 1,073 tons gross built in 1903. She was owned by J. Lund & Company, of Bergen.

### WANTS TO KNOW WHY DOG ORDER IS INEFFECTIVE

That he has heard the muzzling order for dogs has not been enforced in Bridgeport and that he would like to know what is the matter here, was conveyed to the board of health by Commissioner of Domestic Animals Jeffrey O. Phelps today, in a letter.

Dr. E. A. MacLellan, health officer, who has been asked to reply will write to the commissioner and tell him that in his opinion Fables is prevalent in Bridgeport and the reason is because the law has not been enforced. He will advocate extending the limit on the muzzling order for 30 days, beginning July 1.

"Whose fault is it that the muzzling order has not been enforced in Bridgeport," Dr. MacLellan was asked this morning.

"It is somebody's whose business is to enforce the law, is it not?" Dr. MacLellan answered. Further than that he would not express an opinion. As a result of his recommendation it is expected the muzzling order will be extended. Mad dogs are still endangering the lives of residents.

HOD CARRIERS UNCERTAIN.

The hod-carriers, 600 strong in Bridgeport, a large portion of whom are employed on the arms works, did not hold their strike vote meetings last night because Vincent DePalco, general organizer, had been called out of town with other international heads. Though it could not be definitely confirmed there was a report that they had been called directly to Washington to explain the situation here to the central body of the American Federation of Labor. They will hold a meeting tonight to take a strike ballot.

### THAW IN COURT FAILS TO HEAR FREEDOM ORDER

Prisoner is Disappointed As Judge Postpones His Final Decision.

COURTROOM PACKED BY CURIOUS THRONG

Final Disposition of Case Will Be Made Tomorrow, Is Report.

New York, July 15.—While awaiting the decision of Supreme Justice Hendrick on the question of Harry K. Thaw's sanity Thaw's counsel had prepared for submission of a motion to vacate the commitment order. Justice Hendrick had promised to receive application for such an order to-day but his decision on the question of freeing Thaw is not expected until to-morrow. The jury in this case was acting only in an advisory capacity, and its finding does not bind the court.

In the event of a decision to discharge Thaw, counsel for the state were ready to give notice of an appeal and to ask that Thaw be held in bail pending the result of such appeal. Prospect of some new development attracted a large crowd to the courthouse to-day. Thaw was brought from the Ludlow street jail and taken to the courtroom. He remained there some time and then started for the sheriff's office. About the same time Justice Hendrick started from his chambers across the street to formally adjourn the court until to-morrow morning. Justice Hendrick met Thaw in the middle of the street surrounded by a large crowd of spectators with considerable difficulty that the Justice managed to reach the courthouse.

Court adjourned, Justice Hendrick returned to his chambers and discussed the form his order shall take. The question of bail also was discussed. It was said, at the conference.

After the conference Justice Hendrick announced that there would be no decision to-day and that he would probably render one at the re-opening of court at 11 o'clock to-morrow morning.

### FAIR, ALLEGED TO HAVE KILLED WIFE, REPORTED MISSING

Glenbrook Man, Out on Bonds is Said to Have Disappeared From Home.

It was reported today that William F. Fair, one of the men arrested in Darien for alleged complicity in the murder of Margaret Fair, alias Grace Clifton, had disappeared. Coroner John J. Phelps when interviewed this afternoon said he had heard nothing of Fair's reported disappearance.

"Fair is out on bonds of \$5,000 fixed by the criminal superior court when he was held on the charge of manslaughter. Court doesn't convene here until September and he could go anywhere he liked during that interval. He isn't under my jurisdiction any more. But the chances are that if he is innocent he won't let a \$5,000 bond. Fair's home is in Glenbrook."

### PENFIELD PRAISES LOCAL OFFICIALS OF BRICKLAYERS

Major Walter A. Penfield to-day made this statement in relation to his printed statement on the bricklayers' strike: "I was quoted in the New York Times as having said that the bricklayers went on strike six weeks ago and were led into the strike by 'minor officials.' The fact of the matter is the 'minor officials' had nothing to do with this strike except in the settling of it where they were efficient and effective. I should have been quoted as saying 'agitators' instead of saying 'minor officials.' I cannot talk in too high praise of the efficient manner in which the local officials of the Bricklayers' union acted in settling this strike when it was brought to their attention."

When asked if Major William A. Phillips, who retired from the ordinance department of the United States army a day before yesterday, was to take charge of a division of the U. M. C. Company in this city, Major Penfield denied that such knowledge had as yet reached him.

Other officials of the Remington Arms company when asked what the situation at the arms plant was this morning said: "Simply one of expediency—we are simply waiting for developments."

### "UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT" SAYS MESSAGE RECEIVED AT STATE DEPARTMENT

Washington, July 15.—Germany, in an official memorandum submitted today from Berlin by Ambassador Gerard, admits that the American steamer *Nebraska* was torpedoed by a submarine, expressed regret and readiness to make reparation and assures the United States that the attack "was not meant for the American flag but is to be considered an unfortunate accident."

Secretary Lansing had made public a memorandum which disposes of the question of whether the *Nebraska* was struck by a torpedo or by a mine. The German memorandum closes the incident, it was said, except as to the payment of damages.

### SPECIAL SESSION OF CONGRESS FOR NEW NOTE ASKED

Cotton Growers Join With Meat Packers in Protest on Shipping.

Washington, July 15.—American meat packers, in conference with the state department seeking relief from the detention of some 14 million dollars' worth of cargoes to Europe and neutrals, have been asked by representatives of cotton growers, state officials and others in the cotton belts and other business interests affected by the way, to join in a general conference here, having for its object a proposal for a special session of Congress, to deal with the rights of neutrals. It also would take up the question of providing shipping facilities for Americans.

Representatives of the general Chicago packing houses who continued their conferences with state department officials today, disclaimed any initiative action in the proposed conference and said their co-operation in the movement depended on whether the negotiations now in progress resulted in any relief.

### FAILING TO KILL WIFE, DESPONDENT MAN SHOTS SELF

(Special to The Farmer.)

Cutspiring, July 15.—Albert Merrill, of Cutspiring road, is dying in the Bridgeport hospital from a bullet wound, self-inflicted this morning, while his wife looked on.

After a neighbor had battled with him and had wrested a double-barrelled shot gun from his grasp, Merrill shot himself through the head with a bullet from a revolver he had been carrying in his pocket. Worry is believed to be the cause.

Merrill was acting strangely last night and his wife had to watch him closely. He brooded incessantly. At 6:30 o'clock this morning, Anson Dart, a neighbor, heard screams and repeated cries for help issuing from the house. He ran to the Merrill home, entered, and found Merrill armed with a shot gun and charging his screaming wife about the house.

Terrified, Mrs. Merrill had been evading the attacks of her husband for many minutes when Dart arrived. When the latter saw the situation, he leaped upon Merrill, fought with him and narrowly escaped with his own life. Both barrels of the gun were exploded in the battle and the shots penetrated the walls.

Dart succeeded in tearing the gun from Merrill's hands. The latter was maniacally furious by that time and his neighbor ran into the street to summon help. Before any one came, he ran back to protect Mrs. Merrill. "Well, I sold the little house, so here I go," Merrill said, facing his frightened wife, just as Dart re-entered the house. He pulled a revolver from a pocket, placed it at his right ear and pulled the trigger. Then he fell to the floor with a bullet in his head.

A doctor summoned Dr. William B. Cogswell and Dr. E. H. J. Hennessey. After a brief examination, a private ambulance was called for, and Merrill was rushed to the Bridgeport hospital. There it is said his chances for life are poor.

Merrill recently sold his house on Cutspiring road and began the erection of a new one on Longwood avenue. The work was not progressing very satisfactorily and he had been greatly worried over it. His worry induced nervousness, which is believed to have caused the mental disturbance last evening.

Mr. Merrill and A. W. Burritt of Bridgeport married sisters. Besides Mrs. Merrill, he has a daughter, Gladys, a senior in the Stratford High school, and a son, Basil, a sophomore in Cornell University. The financial worry caused by his boy's schooling had some effect in producing nervousness.

The shooting victim is prominent in the life of Stratford and was active in the work of the Stratford Methodist church. He is 51 years old.

The state department made this announcement:

"Ambassador Gerard has telegraphed to the state department the following memorandum from the German foreign office relative to the damaging of the American steamer *Nebraska* by a German submarine."

"The German government received from newspaper reports the intelligence that the American steamer *Nebraska* had been damaged by a mine or torpedo on the southwest coast of Ireland. It therefore started a thorough investigation of the case without delay and from the result of the investigation it has become convinced that the damage to the *Nebraska* was caused by attack by a submarine."

"On the evening of May 25, last, the submarine met a steamer bound westward without a flag and with no neutral markings on her forehead, about 8 nautical miles west of Fastnet Rock. No appliance of any kind for the illumination of the flag or markings was to be seen. In the twilight, which had already set in, the name of the steamer was not visible from the submarine. Since the commander of the submarine was obliged to assume, from his wide experience in the area of maritime war, that only English steamers and no neutral steamers traversed this war area without flag and markings, he attacked the vessel with a torpedo, in the conviction that he had an enemy vessel before him."

"Some time after the shot the commander saw the vessel had in the meantime hoisted the American flag. Consequently he, of course, refrained from any further attack. Since the vessel remained afloat, he had no occasion to concern himself further with the boats which had been launched."

"It results from this, without a doubt, that attack on the steamer *Nebraska* was not meant for the American flag; nor is it traceable to any fault on the part of the commander of the German submarine; but is to be considered an unfortunate accident. The German government expresses its regret at the occurrence to the government of the United States of America and declares its readiness to make some reparation for the damage thereby sustained by American citizens."

"The *Nebraska* case, coming close on the sinking of the *Lusitania* and accepted with the attack on the *Gulflight*, threatened to become one of the important issues in the controversy with Germany over the submarine warfare. There were some circumstances which made the case complex. The *Nebraska* had been under charter to the White Star Line of the International Mercantile Marine Co. but the charter had been cancelled and she was returning home to carry coal from Newport News to the California coast for the United States Navy. With her sister ship, the *Minnesota*, from May to August of 1914, she had been under charter to the United States as an army transport, carrying cargoes from Galveston to Vera Cruz. She was one of the first ships to go through the Panama Canal."

Reply to Austrians Is Being Considered

Washington, July 15.—Austria's diplomatic representations that American exports of war munitions to the allies have attained dimensions endangering the neutrality of the United States have been under consideration at the state department since July 1, and so far it has not been determined what reply, if any, the United States will make. The Austrian note, delivered to Ambassador Penfield on June 25, probably will not be given out here. It is substantially reported, however, in last night's news despatches from Vienna via Amsterdam and London.

The Austrian note contends that war exports as "a proceeding of the present war are not in conformity with the neutrality." It adds that it "would be quite sufficient to advise the enemies of Austria-Hungary and Germany that the supply of foodstuffs and war material would be suspended if legitimate trade in these articles between Americans and neutral countries was not permitted."

German officials have openly declared the United States fully within its rights as a neutral in selling war exports to the allies. Austria's representations put a different phase to the question.

State department officials do not regard the Austrian communication in the nature of a protest and are not yet certain that it requires an answer. Nothing was made public about the communication because of its origin in Austria. They regard it as apparently one emanating solely from the Vienna foreign office without a collaboration with Berlin.

### WEATHER FORECAST

Partly cloudy tonight and Friday, with probably thunder showers. Not much change in temperature. Light to moderate variable winds.